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(54) **Human GP130 protein.**

(57) Human gp130 protein having at least the following properties: (1) the protein has an affinity with a complex of IL-6 (interleukin-6) and an IL-6 receptor (interleukin-6 receptor); (2) the protein shows an apparent molecular weight of 130 kDa in SDS-polyacrylamide electrophoresis; and (3) the protein participates in the transmission of IL-6 signal; DNA coding for the protein, an expression plasmid containing the DNA; and a process for production of the protein using the expression plasmid.

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HUMAN GP130 PROTEIN

The present invention relates to a human gp130 protein, which is a protein participating in the transmission of an IL-6 signal, a DNA coding for this protein, and a means for and a method of producing this protein by genetic engineering.

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a protein participating broadly in the proliferation and differentiation of an organism, and is characterized in that the protein plays an important role in the defense system of an organism such as immunity, hematopoiesis or inflammation (see Kishimoto, Blood, 74, page 1, 1989). It is reported that an abnormal production of IL-6 may become a factor in the cause of various autoimmune diseases (see Kishimoto and Hirano, Ann. Rev. Immunol., 6 page 485, 1988).

The inventor isolated a gene for human IL-6 receptor on the cell membrane, which is specifically bonded to human IL-6, and determined the primary structure thereof (see Japanese Patent Application No. 63-194885). Then the inventor isolated a gene of mouse IL-6 receptor on the cell membrane, which is specifically bonded to mouse IL-6, and determined the primary structure thereof (see Japanese Patent Application No. 1-292230). Furthermore, the inventor prepared a soluble IL-6 receptor (extracellular portion of an IL-6 receptor), considered to be usable for a therapeutic or diagnostic medicine, from the human IL-6 receptor gene as the starting material (see Japanese Patent Application No. 1-9774).

An artificial control of the function of IL-6 strongly exerting physiological activities in an organism is considered usable as a new mechanism for the therapy of various diseases, and knowledge of the course of the transmission of an IL-6 signal is important in the development of a medicinal substance for enhancing or inhibiting the function of IL-6.

The inventor investigated the mechanism of the transmission of the IL-6 signal, and as a result, found that, in addition to the IL-6 and IL-6 receptor, there exists, as a third factor, a protein participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal. Since this protein has an apparent molecular weight of 130 kb, the inventors named his protein "human gp130". To further analyze the transmission of IL-6 signals or to develop a soluble gp130 (the extracellular portion of a gp130 protein) as an inhibitor for IL-6, a large quantity of a purified product of soluble gp130 must be obtained but the amount of gp130 produced in an organism is very small. A DNA sequence coding for gp130 is indispensable for producing gp130 in a large quantity by a genetic engineering method.

Therefore, a primary object of the present in-

vention is to provide a human gp130, a DNA coding for the gp130, and a process for producing the gp130 by using the DNA.

The inventor carried out research into the transmission of the IL-6 signal and found a protein on the cell membrane which participates in the transmission of IL-6 signals, and furthermore, proved that the IL-6 receptor on the cell membrane is bonded to this membrane protein through the bonding to IL-6, this membrane protein mediates the transmission of the IL-6 signal, and the intracellular region of the IL-6 receptor does not participate in the transmission of IL-6 signals.

Also, the inventor succeeded in cloning a DNA coding for human gp130, and determined the nucleotide sequence of this DNA.

The present invention is based on the results of these researches. More specifically, the present invention provides a gp130 participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal; a DNA sequence coding for human gp130; a replicable vector capable of expressing this DNA sequence in a recombinant microorganism or cultured cell; a microorganism or cultured cell transformed by this expression vector; and a process for the production of human gp130, which comprises expressing a DNA sequence coding for gp130 in this microorganism or cultured cell.

Figure 1 shows autoradiographic patterns obtained when U266 cells internally labelled with ³⁵S-methionine are lysed after treatment with IL-6 (lanes 2 and 4) or without treatment with IL-6 (lanes 1 and 3), and then immunoprecipitated by an IL-6 receptor antibody MT18 immobilized on Sepharose B4, and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS/PAGE) is carried out under non-reducing conditions (lanes 1 and 2) or under reducing conditions (lanes 3 and 4);

Figure 2 shows autoradiographic patterns obtained when M12IL6R cells surface-labelled with ¹²⁵I are lysed after treatment with IL-6 (lane 2) or without treatment with IL-6 (lane 1), and is then treated in the same manner as in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows autoradiographic patterns obtained when M12 cells are incubated in the presence (lanes 2 and 4) or absence (lanes 1 and 3) of IL-6 and in the presence of a culture supernatant of COS7 cells containing soluble IL-6 receptor (lanes 3 and 4) or not containing soluble IL-6 receptor (lanes 1 and 2) and lysed, and is then treated in the same manner as in Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows incorporation of ³H-labelled thymidine by M1 cells in the presence of IL-6 at various concentrations, and in the presence or absence of a soluble IL-6 receptor;

Figure 5 shows a restriction enzyme map of λ A and λ B and a schematic structure of a corresponding human gp130 protein, in which E represents the EcoRI site, SS represents the signal sequence, EC represents the extracellular region, TM represents the membrane penetration region, and C represents the intracellular region;

Figure 6 shows the structure of a plasmid pGP130;

Figures 7-1 through 7-6 show the results of the analysis of the nucleotide sequence (Sequence ID N^o. 1) of insert DNA of pGP130, i.e. DNA coding for human gp130, and show the presumed amino acid sequence of a protein, i.e. human gp130 produced when this DNA sequence is expressed, in which the underlined portion represents a hydrophobic amino acid region on the N-terminal side and the double-underlined portion represents a hydrophobic amino acid region on the C-terminal side; and,

Figure 8 shows the results of a Northern blot analysis of various cells conducted by using human gp130 CDNA as the probe.

1. gp130 Protein.

The cell membrane-derived protein participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal according to the present invention, i.e. gp130, exerts an important function when IL-6 is bonded to an IL-6 receptor to finally cause various cells to exert biological activities such as proliferation and differentiation, and in the natural state, this protein is located on the cell membrane. The IL-6 referred to herein includes IL-6 produced in an organism, IL-6 produced by a genetic engineering method, and derivatives thereof. Furthermore, the IL-6 receptor includes an IL-6 receptor present on the cell membrane produced in an organism or by a genetic engineering method, a soluble IL-6 receptor isolated from the cell membrane, and derivatives thereof.

This protein has the following properties.

(1) The protein is bonded to a complex of IL-6 and an IL-6 receptor.

(2) The protein is not bonded to IL-6 alone or IL-6 receptor alone.

(3) The protein shows an apparent molecular weight of 130 kDa in the SDS/PAGE. This protein participates in the transmission of the IL-6 signal and in the natural state, has an amino acid sequence (referred to herein as formula (I) of from Met at the 1-site to Gln at the 918-site as shown in Figure 7. In the present invention, the protein may be any protein having the above-mentioned amino acid sequence, and a protein or polypeptide having a portion of the above-mentioned amino acid se-

quence that makes a contribution to the specific bonding to a complex of IL-6 and IL-6 receptor. Namely, all proteins and polypeptides having an amino acid sequence in which at least one amino acid residue of the above-mentioned amino acid sequence is substituted by another amino acid residue(s), or at least one amino acid is deleted from the above-mentioned amino acid sequence, or at least one amino acid is added to the above-mentioned amino acid sequence, whereby the protein still retains a capacity of being specifically bonded to a complex of IL-6 and IL-6 receptor, are included within the scope of the gp130 of the present invention. For example included within the term "gp130" are proteins in which an amino acid sequence or amino acid residue not making a contribution to the bonding to the complex of IL-6 and IL-6 receptor in the above-mentioned amino acid sequence is modified by substitution, deficiency or insertion; proteins in which an amino acid sequence and/or an amino acid residue portion is added to the N-terminal side and/or the C-terminal side of the above-mentioned amino acid sequence; and proteins formed by a fusion of another protein, such as a human growth hormone, to the above-mentioned amino acid sequence.

The amino acid sequence represented by formula (I) consists of 918 amino acid residues, and hydrophobic amino residues are located in the region of from leucine at the second position from the N-terminal side to glycine located at the 22nd position and the region of from alanine at the 620th position to phenylalanine at the 641st position. It is considered that, of these two regions, the former region is a signal peptide region and the latter region is a membrane penetration region.

2. DNA Sequence.

DNA coding for human gp130 protein of the present invention encodes, for example, an amino acid sequence of from Met at 1-position to Gln at 918-position as shown in Figure 7. Representative cDNA has a base sequence of from A at 273-position to G at 3026-position as shown in Figure 7. The present invention covers not only the above-mentioned DNA sequence but also DNA in which at least one nucleotide of the above-mentioned DNA sequence is substituted with another nucleotide, or at least one nucleotide is deleted from the above-mentioned DNA sequence, or at least one nucleotide is added to the above-mentioned DNA sequence, and which codes for a protein having a capacity of being specifically bonded to the IL-6/IL-6 receptor complex. For example, there can be mentioned DNA sequences coding for proteins having the amino acid sequences as men-

tioned in formula (I) above.

3. Process for Preparation of gp130 Protein.

According to a first process of the present invention, the cell membrane-derived protein participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal is prepared from animal cells producing this protein. As the cells, there can be mentioned IL-6 receptor-producing cells, for example, human myeloma cell U266, mouse leukemia cell line M1, and human B cell line CL4. The protein of the present invention participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal also can be produced by the cells not producing IL-6 receptor. As the cells of this type, mouse B cell line M12, human T cell line Jurkat, and mouse T cell line CTLL2 can be mentioned. Namely, the protein participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal according to the present invention can be obtained from these cells.

As pointed out hereinbefore, the protein of the present invention is bonded to the IL-6 receptor in the presence of IL-6 but is not bonded to the IL-6 receptor in the absence of IL-6, and therefore, the protein of the present invention can be isolated by utilizing this property.

For example, to isolate the protein from cells producing both the IL-6 receptor and the protein of the present invention, a process can be adopted in which the producing cells are cultured, IL-6 is artificially added to the cultured cells, incubation is carried out for a time sufficient to allow a reaction between the cells and the added IL-6 under physiological conditions, for example, for about 30 minutes at about 37°C in a conventional culture medium such as RPMI1640, and the cells are then lysed by a customary method, for example, by a treatment with a triethanolamine buffer solution containing 1% of digitonine, whereby a cell lysate containing a complex in which IL-6, the IL-6 receptor and the protein of the present invention are bonded together is obtained. Alternatively, after the cells are lysed by a customary method, incubation is carried out in the above-mentioned manner to obtain a cell lysate containing the above-mentioned complex. An antibody to IL-6 receptor, for example, MT18 antibody (prepared according to Referential Example 1 given hereinafter; see Japanese Patent Application No. 63-194885) is immobilized by a solid carrier, for example, Sepharose 4B, by the cyanogen bromide activation method. By placing this immobilized antibody to IL-6 receptor in contact with the above-mentioned cell lysate, the complex containing the protein of the present invention is immobilized on the above-mentioned solid carrier through the specific reaction between the IL-6 receptor and the IL-6 receptor antibody. Then, this

solid carrier is washed to remove non-specifically bonded or adhering impurities, and the complex is eluted from the solid carrier by a conventional means using, for example, urea or guanidine, to free the desired protein of the present invention from the IL-6 receptor-containing protein complex.

To isolate and purify the desired protein of the present invention from the obtained solution, customary means adopted for the isolation and purification of proteins, such as precipitation using ammonium sulfate, column chromatography, for example, reversed phase chromatography and ion exchange chromatography, and electrophoresis can be used. During this isolation and purification process, an active fraction can be selected by utilizing the bonding to the IL-6 receptor in the presence of IL-6, non-bonding to the IL-6 receptor in the absence of IL-6, and confirming the molecular weight of 130 kDa as the criterion.

Where cells producing the protein of the present invention but not producing the IL-6 receptor are used, incubation is carried out in the presence of a soluble IL-6 receptor and IL-6, and the cells are then lysed to obtain a cell lysate containing an IL-6/IL-6 receptor/desired protein complex. Alternatively, the abovementioned cells producing the protein of the present invention are lysed; an incubation of IL-6 and the IL-6 receptor is carried out, and finally, a cell lysate containing an IL-6/IL-6 receptor/desired protein complex is obtained. The desired protein can be isolated and purified from this cell lysate in the above-mentioned manner.

The second process for the production of the protein participating in the transmission of IL-6 signals according to the present invention utilizes gene recombination, or recombinant DNA techniques. In this process, DNA coding for an amino acid sequence of a protein on the cell membrane, which participates in the transmission of the IL-6 signal can be obtained by various methods. For example, a cDNA library may be formed from cells expressing the above-mentioned protein thereon, such as human myeloma cells, according to customary procedures, and this library is selected according to various methods, for example, the method in which a probe designed on the basis of a partial amino acid sequence of the purified protein is used, and the method in which cDNA is expressed and the selection is made based on the property of the produced protein, for example, the specific bonding to the IL-6-bonded IL-6 receptor. The protein of the present invention is produced by expressing the thus-cloned DNA according to customary procedures.

4. DNA Coding gp130 Protein.

The DNA to be used for the above-mentioned process can be prepared based on desired messenger RNA selected from various messenger RNA's extracted, for example, for the human placenta by a known method, by using a probe prepared based on the DNA sequence of Figure 7 provided by the present invention. Alternatively, a part or all of this DNA can be chemically synthesized according to the disclosure of the present invention.

5. Expression Vector.

As the replicable expression vector capable of expressing the DNA sequence coding human gp130 provided according to the present invention, any vector having a replicating origin, control sequences and a sequence coding for gp130, and capable of transforming a selected host can be appropriately used without limitation. For example, plasmids such as pBR322 and pBR327 can be used when *E. coli* is used as the host, and when cultured cells of a mammal or the like is used as the host, a vector having a DNA replicating origin derived from SV40 virus, can be used.

Of the control sequences for expressing the coding sequence, the promoter system is important, and an appropriate promoter system should be elected according to the relationship to the selected host. When *E. coli* is used as the host, a lactose promoter system, a tryptophan promoter system or hybrid promoter systems thereof are preferably selected. When cultured cells derived from a mammal are used as the host, an SV40 promoter system, adenovirus promoter system, and cytomegalovirus promoter system are preferably selected.

6. Host.

Microorganisms or cultured cells customarily used for producing proteins by genetic engineering can be used as the host without limitation. As the microorganism, there can be mentioned *E. coli* such as K-12 or W-3110, *Bacillus subtilis* and yeast, and as the cultured cells, there can be mentioned COS cells (monkey renal fibroblast), CHO cells (Chinese hamster oocyte), and myeloma cells.

The host explained in (6) above, which has been transformed by the vector explained in (5) above, is cultured to express the DNA sequence coding for human gp130 in the vector DNA, whereby human gp130 is produced. This is realized by the activation of the promoter system in the control sequences linked to the DNA sequence coding for

human gp130.

A polyclonal antibody or monoclonal antibody to the protein of the present invention can be prepared according to customary procedures by using the protein of the present invention prepared according to various processes as described above, or the cell producing this protein as an immunogen. As the cell source and animal to be used in this preparation process, there can be mentioned organisms such as human, mouse, rabbit, goat and sheep.

The cell membrane-derived protein participating in the transmission of the IL-6 signal provided according to the present invention, can be used as a reagent for clarifying the signal transmission mechanism of IL-6 and developing valuable substances such as therapeutic agents for controlling the function of IL-6. For example, by using, as a detection criterion, the property of the present protein which transmits IL-6 signal while being specifically bonded to the IL-6 receptor bonded to IL-6, substances controlling the function of IL-6 can be screened. As the substances to be screened, there can be mentioned natural substances, synthetic chemicals, IL-6 and an IL-6 receptor produced by genetic engineering, derivatives thereof, and antibodies to IL-6, the IL-6 receptor, and antibodies to these proteins.

Furthermore, by bonding the soluble IL-6 receptor which has been bonded to IL-6 to the present protein, the function of IL-6 can be enhanced, and the function of IL-6 can be exerted even on a cell having no IL-6 receptor in the cell surface layer. On the other hand, if the bonding of the above-mentioned protein to the IL-6 receptor which has been bonded to IL-6 is inhibited by an antibody to IL-6, IL-6 receptor or the above-mentioned protein, the biological activity of IL-6 will be inhibited. Accordingly, it is considered that the protein of the present invention will be usable as an active ingredient of a medicine.

Furthermore, by the DNA sequence coding for human gp130 according to the present invention, and the means and process for producing this protein by genetic engineering, this protein, which is produced only in a very small amount in the natural state, can be produced in a large quantity.

The present invention will now be described in detail with reference to the following examples, that by no means limit the scope of the invention. It should be noted that the protein of the present invention is sometimes called "gp130" in the examples for convenience.

Example 1

Bonding of Protein (gp130) on Human Cell Membrane to Human IL-6 Receptor in Presence of Human IL-6

Human myeloma cells U266 (cells producing the IL-6 receptor and gp130 protein) (2×10^7 cells) were internally labelled with 1 mCi of ^{35}S -methionine and divided into two parts. One part was incubated in 0.5 ml of PRMI1640 culture medium at 37°C for 30 minutes in the presence of IL-6 (1 ug/ml), and the other part was similarly incubated in the absence of IL-6. Then, the U266 cells were lysed with 1 ml of a 10 mM triethanolamine buffer solution (having a pH value of 7.4) containing 1% of digitonine (supplied by Wako Junyaku), 0.15 M NaCl, and 1 mM pAPMSF (a commercially available plasmid supplied by Wako Junyaku). Separately, the IL-6 receptor antibody MT18 (Referential Example 1) was bonded to Sepharose 4B activated by cyanogen bromide, and the bonded antibody then mixed with the supernatant of the above-mentioned cell lysate, whereby the solubilized IL-6 receptor was bonded to the MT18 antibody on the resin.

The non-specifically bonded substances were washed away by the above-mentioned solution containing 1% of digitonine. Then, under reducing or non-reducing conditions, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS/PAGE) and autoradiography were carried out. The results are shown in Figure 1. In Figure 1, the band of 80 kDa shows the ^{35}S -methionine-labelled IL-6 receptor derived from the U266 cell, and the band of 130 kDa shows the gp130 protein of the present invention. From the results shown in Figure 1, it is seen that the IL-6 receptor bonded to IL-6 is bonded to the human protein (gp130) having a monomer molecular weight of 130 kDa within 30 minutes at 37°C .

Example 2

Bonding of Human IL-6 receptor to Protein (gp130) on Mouse Cell Membrane in Presence of Human IL-6

A plasmid prepared by inserting a human IL-6 receptor cDNA into the BamHI site in the plasmid pZipNeoSV(X) (see Cepko et al, Cell, 37, page 1053, 1984) was introduced into a mouse B cell strain M12 not expressing the IL-6 receptor on the cell surface, by the electroporation method, and the transformed cell was screened based on the resistance to an antibiotic substance G418 (neomycin analogue - supplied by Sigma). The thus-established mouse B cell M12-derived clone expressing

the human IL-6 receptor on the cell surface was named "M12IL6R".

Then, 10^7 of M12IL6R cells were washed with PBS and suspended in 0.1 ml of 50 mM Tris (having a pH value of 7.4) and 0.15 M NaCl. Next, 1 mCi of $\text{Na } ^{125}\text{I}$ and two Iodobeads (supplied by Pierce) were reacted at room temperature for 5 minutes in 0.1 ml of the above-mentioned buffer solution, the reaction liquid was mixed with the above-mentioned cell suspension, and incubation was carried out at room temperature for 30 minutes. Then 1 ug/ml of IL-6 was added to the thus-labelled cells, or was not added, and the reaction was carried out at 37°C for 30 minutes, and the cell was lysed according to the method described in Example 1, an immunoprecipitation by MT18 (see reference Example 1) was carried out, and SDS/PAGE and autoradiography were then carried out. The results are shown in Figure 2. In Figure 2, the band of 80 kDa shows the IL-6 receptor produced by the IL-6 receptor cDNA introduced into an M12 cell, and the band of 130 kDa shows a gp130 protein inherently produced by the M12 cell. From the results shown in Figure 2, it is seen that the human IL-6 receptor on M12IL6R bonded to human IL-6 is bonded to the mouse protein (gp130) derived from M12IL6R, at 37°C within 30 minutes.

Example 3

Bonding of Soluble IL-6 Receptor to gp130 in Presence of IL-6

According to the method described in Example 2, 2×10^7 of M12 cells (cells not producing IL-6 receptor) were labelled, 5×10^6 of the labelled cells were added to 1 ml of a culture supernatant of COS7 cells containing or not containing the soluble IL-6 receptor in the presence or presence of IL-6 (1 ug/ml), and the reaction was carried out at 37°C for 30 minutes. Then the cells were lysed with digitonine according to the method described in Example 1, immunoprecipitation was carried out by MT18 antibody, and the SDS/PAGE and autoradiography were then carried out. The results are shown in Figure 3. In Figure 3, the band of 130 kDa shows the gp130 protein produced by M12 cells. Note, in this example, since the soluble IL-6 receptor was radiography. From the results shown in Figure 3, it is seen that the complex of IL-6 and the soluble IL-6 receptor is bonded to the protein (gp130) on the cell membrane, and the soluble IL-6 receptor alone is not bonded to gp130.

Example 4

Enhancement of Function of IL-6 by Soluble IL-6 Receptor in Presence of IL-6

M1 cells (1×10^5 cells/ml) were cultured at 0.2 ml/well in a culture medium containing IL-6 at various concentrations as well as COS7 cell supernatant or soluble IL-6 receptor-containing COS7 cell supernatant in an amount of 25%. Within 60 to 70 hours from the start of the culturing, ^3H -labelled thymidine was added, and by measuring the radioactivity incorporated into the cells, the proliferation of the cells was examined. Figure 4 shows that the effect of inhibiting the proliferation of M1 cells, possessed by IL-6, is enhanced by the soluble IL-6 receptor. Namely, the function of IL-6 is enhanced by the bonding of the IL-6-bonded soluble IL-6 receptor to gp130 of M1 cell.

Example 5

Isolation of Human gp130 cDNA

A series of gene recombination operations (extraction of m-RNA, cleavage of DNA by restriction enzyme, and the like) were carried out according to the process of Maniatis et al (see Molecular Cloning, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1982) and the process of Harwin et al (see DNA Cloning, A Practical Approach, vol. 1, page 49, IRL, Oxford, 1985). Screening by the antibody of $\lambda\text{gt}11$ cDNA library was carried out according to the conventional method.

First, a messenger (m) RNA was extracted from human myeloma cell U266 (see Cell, volume 58, page 573, 1989), and a cDNA library was prepared by using $\lambda\text{gt}11$ (supplied by Clontech). Then, using mouse-derived monoclonal antibodies AM64 and AM277 (see Japanese Patent Application No. 2-15090) to gp130, about 500,000 clones were screened, and finally, two colonies (λ_A and λ_B) were obtained. The insert cDNA of each of λ_A and λ_B was analyzed, and the results are shown in Figure 5. As shown in Figure 5, the insert cDNAs did not contain the full length human gp130-coding region.

Accordingly, an EcoRI fragment of λ_A and the EcoRI fragment of λ_B were inserted, while connecting them in the orientation of reading of cDNA, to the EcoRI site of a vector pBluescript SK (supplied by Stratagene) to prepare a plasmid pGP130 having an insert DNA containing the complete human gp130-coding region. The structure of pGP130 is shown in Figure 6, and the sequence of the insert DNA of pGP130, i.e. the sequence of human gp130 cDNA determined from insert cDNA sequences of λ_A and λ_B , and the presumed amino acid se-

quence, are shown in Figure 7.

E. coli HB101/pGP130 containing this plasmid pGP130 was internationally deposited as deposition No. FERM BP-2912 under the Budapest Treaty on May 15, 1990 with the Fermentation Research Institute, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, located at 1-3, Higashi 1-Chome, Tsujika-shi, Ibaragi-ken, Japan.

Example 6

Expression of Human gp130 mRNA in Various Cells

To examine the expression of human gp130 in various cells, Northern blot analysis was carried out. The culturing of cells, extraction of mRNA from the cells, electrophoresis, blotting, probe labelling, hybridization, filter washing, and autoradiography were carried out according to standard methods.

mRNA was extracted from human myeloma cells U266, human B cells CESS, human Burkitt's lymphoma Jijoye, human T cells Jurkat, and NK cells YT, and 1 μg of each mRNA then denaturated by the formamide method and subjected to electrophoresis with 0.8% agarose gel, and to Northern blotting on a nylon filter membrane. Then an insert cDNA of λ_A obtained by the method described in Example 5 was extracted, and using this extracted insert cDNA, hybridization was carried out at 42°C for 24 hours. The product was then washed and autoradiography was carried out.

The results are shown in Figure 8, and it is seen that the manifestation of gp130 mRNA is strong in U266 and YT, medium in CESS, and weak in Jijoye and Jurkat. This has a relation to the reactivity of the IL-6 of each cell.

Referential Example 1

Preparation of Monoclonal Antibody to Human IL-6 Receptor

To prepare a mouse monoclonal antibody to human IL-6 receptor, mouse T cells having human IL-6 receptors expressed on the cell membrane surface were prepared as an antigen, according to the following method. Namely, pBSF2R.236 and pSV2neo disclosed in Japanese Patent Application No. 1-9744 were introduced in mouse T-cells CTLL-2 (ATCC, TIB214) according to a conventional procedure, and screening was carried out according to the conventional method using anti-biotic G-418. Finally, the strain in which about

30,000 IL-6 receptors per cell were expressed was established, and this strain was named "CTBC2".

The immunization was carried out in the following manner. The CTBC2 cells were cultured according to a conventional method using PRMI1640 culture medium, and the cultured CTBC2 cells were washed four times with a PBS buffer and used intraperitoneally to immunize C57BL6 mouse in an amount of 1×10^7 cells per mouse once a week, six times as a whole.

The spleen cells of the immunized mouse were fused to the myeloma cells P3U1 as the parent cell line, according to a conventional method using polyethylene glycol.

Screening was carried out in the following manner. Namely, pBRF2R.236 and pSV2neo were introduced into the IL-6 receptor-negative human T cell strain JURKAT (ATCC, CRL8163) according to a conventional method, and by screening, a strain expressing about 100,000 IL-6 receptors per cell was established, and this strain was named "NJBC8". One clone of a hybridoma producing an antibody recognizing the cell contents of NJBC8 lysed by NP40 but not recognizing the cell contents of JURKAT lysed by NP40 was isolated and named "MT18". The monoclonal antibody produced by this hybridoma was named "MT18 antibody".

The above-mentioned hybridoma MT18 was deposited at the Fermentation Research Institute (FRI) Agency of Industrial Science and Technology 1-3 Yatabe-cho Higashi 1-chome Ibaraki Japan as FERM P-10840 on July 12, 1989, and transferred to an international deposition under the Budapest Treaty as FERM BP-2999 on July 10, 1990.

The cell line AM64 was deposited with the Fermentation Research Institute (FRI) Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, located at 1-3 Yatabe-cho Higashi 1-chome Ibaraki Japan, on January 12, 1990, as FERM P-11194; and the cell line AM277 was deposited with the FRI on January 12, 1990, as FERM P-11195. Availability of deposited materials is not necessary for practice of the present invention, which may be performed using the teachings of the present disclosure in combination with publicly available materials and information and techniques well known in the arts of molecular biology, recombinant DNA, and chimeric gene expression.

Claims

1. Recombinant human gp130 protein which bonds to the IL-6 receptor in the presence of IL-6 but does not bond to the IL-6 receptor in the absence of IL-6.
2. Human gp130 protein having at least the follow-

ing properties:

(1) the protein has an affinity with a complex of IL-6 (interleukin-6) and an IL-6 receptor (interleukin-6 receptor);

(2) the protein shows an apparent molecular weight of 130 kDa in SDS-polyacrylamide electrophoresis; and

(3) the protein participates in the transmission of IL-6 signal.

3. Human gp130 protein as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that it has an amino acid sequence from Met at the 1st site to Gln at the 918th position in Figure 7.

4. DNA coding for human gp130 protein as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3.

5. DNA as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that it codes for a human gp130 protein having an amino acid sequence of from Met at the 1st position to Gln at the 918th position in Figure 7.

6. DNA as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that it has a nucleotide sequence from A at the 273rd position to G at the 3026th position in Figure 7.

7. A vector containing DNA as claimed in Claim 4, 5 or 6.

8. A vector as claimed in Claim 7 which is an expression vector capable of expressing the said DNA in a host cell.

9. The plasmid pPG130.

10. A host cell transformed by an expression vector as claimed in Claim 8.

11. A process for the production of human gp130 protein, which comprises culturing a host cell as claimed in Claim 10.

12. Human gp130 protein substantially free of another human protein, which is produced by using DNA as claimed in Claim 4, 5 or 6.

SEQ ID NO : 1
 SEQUENCE TYPE : Nucleotide sequence with corresponding
 proteins
 SEQUENCE LENGTH : 3102 base pairs

GAATTCGGGG CCGGGGCGAG CAGCCAAAAG GCGCGCGGAG TCGCGCTGGG	50
CCGCCCCGGC GCAGCTGAAC CGGGGGCCGC GCCTGCCAGG CCGACGGGTC	100
TGGCCCAGCC TGGCGCCAAG GGGTTCGTGC GCTGTGGAGA CGCGGAGGGT	150
CGAGGCGGGC CGGCCTGAGT GAAACCCAAT GGAAAAAGCA TGACATTTAG	200
AAGTAGAAGA CTTAGCTTCA AATCCCTACT CCTTCACTTA CTAATTTTGT	250
GATTTGGAAA TATCCGCGCA AG ATG TTG ACG TTG CAG ACT TGG	293
Met Leu Thr Leu Gln Thr Trp	5
GTA GTG CAA GCC TTG TTT ATT TTC CTC ACC ACT GAA TCT ACA	335
Val Val Gln Ala Leu Phe Ile Phe Leu Thr Thr Glu Ser Thr	10 15 20
GGT GAA CTT CTA GAT CCA TGT GGT TAT ATC AGT CCT GAA TCT	377
Gly Glu Leu Leu Asp Pro Cys Gly Tyr Ile Ser Pro Glu Ser	25 30 35
CCA GTT GTA CAA CTT CAT TCT AAT TTC ACT GCA GTT TGT GTG	419
Pro Val Val Gln Leu His Ser Asn Phe Thr Ala Val Cys Val	40 45
CTA AAG GAA AAA TGT ATG GAT TAT TTT CAT GTA AAT GCT AAT	461
Leu Lys Glu Lys Cys Met Asp Tyr Phe His Val Asn Ala Asn	50 55 60
TAC ATT GTC TGG AAA ACA AAC CAT TTT ACT ATT CCT AAG GAG	503
Tyr Ile Val Trp Lys Thr Asn His Phe Thr Ile Pro Lys Glu	65 70 75
CAA TAT ACT ATC ATA AAC AGA ACA GCA TCC AGT GTC ACC TTT	545
Gln Tyr Thr Ile Ile Asn Arg Thr Ala Ser Ser Val Thr Phe	80 85 90
ACA GAT ATA GCT TCA TTA AAT ATT CAG CTC ACT TGC AAC ATT	587
Thr Asp Ile Ala Ser Leu Asn Ile Gln Leu Thr Cys Asn Ile	95 100 105
CTT ACA TTC GGA CAG CTT GAA CAG AAT GTT TAT GGA ATC ACA	629
Leu Thr Phe Gly Gln Leu Glu Gln Asn Val Tyr Gly Ile Thr	110 115
ATA ATT TCA GGC TTG CCT CCA GAA AAA CCT AAA AAT TTG AGT	671
Ile Ile Ser Gly Leu Pro Pro Glu Lys Pro Lys Asn Leu Ser	120 125 130

TGC	ATT	GTG	AAC	GAG	GGG	AAG	AAA	ATG	AGG	TGT	GAG	TGG	GAT	713
Cys	Ile	Val	Asn	Glu	Gly	Lys	Lys	Met	Arg	Cys	Glu	Trp	Asp	
	135					140					145			
GGT	GGA	AGG	GAA	ACA	CAC	TTG	GAG	ACA	AAC	TTC	ACT	TTA	AAA	755
Gly	Gly	Arg	Glu	Thr	His	Leu	Glu	Thr	Asn	Phe	Thr	Leu	Lys	
		150					155					160		
TCT	GAA	TGG	GCA	ACA	CAC	AAG	TTT	GCT	GAT	TGC	AAA	GCA	AAA	797
Ser	Glu	Trp	Ala	Thr	His	Lys	Phe	Ala	Asp	Cys	Lys	Ala	Lys	
			165					170					175	
CGT	GAC	ACC	CCC	ACC	TCA	TGC	ACT	GTT	GAT	TAT	TCT	ACT	GTG	839
Arg	Asp	Thr	Pro	Thr	Ser	Cys	Thr	Val	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Val	
				180					185					
TAT	TTT	GTC	AAC	ATT	GAA	GTC	TGG	GTA	GAA	GCA	GAG	AAT	GCC	881
Tyr	Phe	Val	Asn	Ile	Glu	Val	Trp	Val	Glu	Ala	Glu	Asn	Ala	
	190				195					200				
CTT	GGG	AAG	GTT	ACA	TCA	GAT	CAT	ATC	AAT	TTT	GAT	CCT	GTA	923
Leu	Gly	Lys	Val	Thr	Ser	Asp	His	Ile	Asn	Phe	Asp	Pro	Val	
	205					210					215			
TAT	AAA	GTG	AAG	CCC	AAT	CCG	CCA	CAT	AAT	TTA	TCA	GTG	ATC	965
Tyr	Lys	Val	Lys	Pro	Asn	Pro	Pro	His	Asn	Leu	Ser	Val	Ile	
		220					225					230		
AAC	TCA	GAG	GAA	CTG	TCT	AGT	ATC	TTA	AAA	TTG	ACA	TGG	ACC	1007
Asn	Ser	Glu	Glu	Leu	Ser	Ser	Ile	Leu	Lys	Leu	Thr	Trp	Thr	
			235					240					245	
AAC	CCA	AGT	ATT	AAG	AGT	GTT	ATA	ATA	CTA	AAA	TAT	AAC	ATT	1049
Asn	Pro	Ser	Ile	Lys	Ser	Val	Ile	Ile	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Asn	Ile	
				250					255					
CAA	TAT	AGG	ACC	AAA	GAT	GCC	TCA	ACT	TGG	AGC	CAG	ATT	CCT	1091
Gln	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Lys	Asp	Ala	Ser	Thr	Trp	Ser	Gln	Ile	Pro	
	260				265					270				
CCT	GAA	GAC	ACA	GCA	TCC	ACC	CGA	TCT	TCA	TTC	ACT	GTC	CAA	1133
Pro	Glu	Asp	Thr	Ala	Ser	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	Thr	Val	Gln	
	275					280					285			
GAC	CTT	AAA	CCT	TTT	ACA	GAA	TAT	GTG	TTT	AGG	ATT	CGC	TGT	1175
Asp	Leu	Lys	Pro	Phe	Thr	Glu	Tyr	Val	Phe	Arg	Ile	Arg	Cys	
		290					295					300		

ATG AAG GAA GAT GGT AAG GGA TAC TGG AGT GAC TGG AGT GAA	1217
Met Lys Glu Asp Gly Lys Gly Tyr Trp Ser Asp Trp Ser Glu	
305 310 315	
GAA GCA AGT GGG ATC ACC TAT GAA GAT AGA CCA TCT AAA GCA	1259
Glu Ala Ser Gly Ile Thr Tyr Glu Asp Arg Pro Ser Lys Ala	
320 325	
CCA AGT TTC TGG TAT AAA ATA GAT CCA TCC CAT ACT CAA GGC	1301
Pro Ser Phe Trp Tyr Lys Ile Asp Pro Ser His Thr Gln Gly	
330 335 340	
TAC AGA ACT GTA CAA CTC GTG TGG AAG ACA TTG CCT CCT TTT	1343
Tyr Arg Thr Val Gln Leu Val Trp Lys Thr Leu Pro Pro Phe	
345 350 355	
GAA GCC AAT GGA AAA ATC TTG GAT TAT GAA GTG ACT CTC ACA	1385
Glu Ala Asn Gly Lys Ile Leu Asp Tyr Glu Val Thr Leu Thr	
360 365 370	
AGA TGG AAA TCA CAT TTA CAA AAT TAC ACA GTT AAT GCC ACA	1427
Arg Trp Lys Ser His Leu Gln Asn Tyr Thr Val Asn Ala Thr	
375 380 385	
AAA CTG ACA GTA AAT CTC ACA AAT GAT CGC TAT CTA GCA ACC	1469
Lys Leu Thr Val Asn Leu Thr Asn Asp Arg Tyr Leu Ala Thr	
390 395	
CTA ACA GTA AGA AAT CTT GTT GGC AAA TCA GAT GCA GCT GTT	1511
Leu Thr Val Arg Asn Leu Val Gly Lys Ser Asp Ala Ala Val	
400 405 410	
TTA ACT ATC CCT GCC TGT GAC TTT CAA GCT ATC CAC CCT GTA	1553
Leu Thr Ile Pro Ala Cys Asp Phe Gln Ala Thr His Pro Val	
415 420 425	
ATG GAT CTT AAA GCA TTC CCC AAA GAT AAC ATG CTT TGG GTG	1595
Met Asp Leu Lys Ala Phe Pro Lys Asp Asn Met Leu Trp Val	
430 435 440	
GAA TGG ACT ACT CCA AGG GAA TCT GTA AAG AAA TAT ATA CTT	1637
Glu Trp Thr Thr Pro Arg Glu Ser Val Lys Lys Tyr Ile Leu	
445 450 455	
GAG TGG TGT GTG TTA TCA GAT AAA GCA CCC TGT ATC ACA GAC	1679
Glu Trp Cys Val Leu Ser Asp Lys Ala Pro Cys Ile Thr Asp	
460 465	

TGG Trp 470	CAA Gln	CAA Gln	GAA Glu	GAT Asp	GGT Gly 475	ACC Thr	GTG Val	CAT His	CGC Arg	ACC Thr 480	TAT Tyr	TTA Leu	AGA Arg	1721
GGG Gly 485	AAC Asn	TTA Leu	GCA Ala	GAG Glu	AGC Ser	AAA Lys 490	TGC Cys	TAT Tyr	TTG Leu	ATA Ile 495	ACA Thr	GTT Val	ACT Thr	1763
CCA Pro	GTA Val	TAT Tyr 500	GCT Ala	GAT Asp	GGA Gly	CCA Pro	GGA Gly 505	AGC Ser	CCT Pro	GAA Glu	TCC Ser 510	ATA Ile	AAG Lys	1805
GCA Ala	TAC Tyr	CTT Leu	AAA Lys 515	CAA Gln	GCT Ala	CCA Pro	CCT Pro	TCC Ser 520	AAA Lys	GGA Gly	CCT Pro	ACT Thr	GTT Val 525	1847
CGG Arg	ACA Thr	AAA Lys	AAA Lys	GTA Val 530	GGG Gly	AAA Lys	AAC Asn	GAA Glu 535	GCT Ala 535	GTC Val	TTA Leu	GAG Glu	TGG Trp	1889
GAC Asp 540	CAA Gln	CTT Leu	CCT Pro	GTT Val	GAT Asp 545	GTT Val	CAG Gln	AAT Asn	GGA Gly	TTT Phe 550	ATC Ile	AGA Arg	AAT Asn	1931
TAT Tyr 555	ACT Thr	ATA Ile	TTT Phe	TAT Tyr	AGA Arg	ACC Thr 560	ATC Ile	ATT Ile	GGA Gly	AAT Asn 565	GAA Glu	ACT Thr	GCT Ala	1973
GTG Val	AAT Asn 570	GTG Val	GAT Asp	TCT Ser	TCC Ser	CAC His	ACA Thr 575	GAA Glu	TAT Tyr	ACA Thr	TTG Leu	TCC Ser 580	TCT Ser	2015
TTG Leu	ACT Thr	AGT Ser	GAC Asp 585	ACA Thr	TTG Leu	TAC Tyr	ATG Met	GTA Val 590	CGA Arg	ATG Met	GCA Ala	GCA Ala	TAC Tyr 595	2057
ACA Thr	GAT Asp	GAA Glu	GGT Gly 600	GGG Gly	AAG Lys	GAT Asp	GGT Gly	CCA Pro	GAA Glu 605	TTC Phe	ACT Thr	TTT Phe	ACT Thr	2099
ACC Thr 610	CCA Pro	AAG Lys	TTT Phe	GCT Ala	CAA Gln 615	GGA Gly	GAA Glu	ATT Ile	GAA Glu	GCC Ala 620	ATA Ile	GTC Val	GTG Val	2141
CCT Pro 625	GTT Val	TGC Cys	TTA Leu	GCA Ala	TTC Phe 630	CTA Leu 630	TTG Leu	ACA Thr	ACT Thr	CTT Leu 635	CTG Leu	GGA Gly	GTG Val	2183
CTG Leu	TTC Phe 640	TGC Cys	TTT Phe	AAT Asn	AAG Lys	CGA Arg	GAC Asp 645	CTA Leu	ATT Ile	AAA Lys	AAA Lys	CAC His 650	ATC Ile	2225

TGG	CCT	AAT	GTT	CCA	GAT	CCT	TCA	AAG	AGT	CAT	ATT	GCC	CAG	2267
Trp	Pro	Asn	Val	Pro	Asp	Pro	Ser	Lys	Ser	His	Ile	Ala	Gln	
			655					660					665	
TGG	TCA	CCT	CAC	ACT	CCT	CCA	AGG	CAC	AAT	TTT	AAT	TCA	AAA	2309
Trp	Ser	Pro	His	Thr	Pro	Pro	Arg	His	Asn	Phe	Asn	Ser	Lys	
				670					675					
GAT	CAA	ATG	TAT	TCA	GAT	GGC	AAT	TTC	ACT	GAT	GTA	AGT	GTT	2351
Asp	Gln	Met	Tyr	Ser	Asp	Gly	Asn	Phe	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Val	
680					685					690				
GTG	GAA	ATA	GAA	GCA	AAT	GAC	AAA	AAG	CCT	TTT	CCA	GAA	GAT	2393
Val	Glu	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Asp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Phe	Pro	Glu	Asp	
	695					700					705			
CTG	AAA	TCA	TTG	GAC	CTG	TTC	AAA	AAG	GAA	AAA	ATT	AAT	ACT	2435
Leu	Lys	Ser	Leu	Asp	Leu	Phe	Lys	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ile	Asn	Thr	
			710				715					720		
GAA	GGA	CAC	AGC	AGT	GGT	ATT	GGG	GGG	TCT	TCA	TGC	ATG	TCA	2477
Glu	Gly	His	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ile	Gly	Gly	Ser	Ser	Cys	Met	Ser	
			725					730					735	
TCT	TCT	AGG	CCA	AGC	ATT	TCT	AGC	AGT	GAT	GAA	AAT	GAA	TCT	2519
Ser	Ser	Arg	Pro	Ser	Ile	Ser	Ser	Ser	Asp	Glu	Asn	Glu	Ser	
				740					745					
TCA	CAA	AAC	ACT	TCG	AGC	ACT	GTC	CAG	TAT	TCT	ACC	GTG	GTA	2561
Ser	Gln	Asn	Thr	Ser	Ser	Thr	Val	Gln	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Val	Val	
					755					760				
CAC	AGT	GGC	TAC	AGA	CAC	CAA	GTT	CCG	TCA	GTC	CAA	GTC	TTC	2603
His	Ser	Gly	Tyr	Arg	His	Gln	Val	Pro	Ser	Val	Gln	Val	Phe	
						770					775			
TCA	AGA	TCC	GAG	TCT	ACC	CAG	CCC	TTG	TTA	GAT	TCA	GAG	GAG	2645
Ser	Arg	Ser	Glu	Ser	Thr	Gln	Pro	Leu	Leu	Asp	Ser	Glu	Glu	
			780				785					790		
CGG	CCA	GAA	GAT	CTA	CAA	TTA	GTA	GAT	CAT	GTA	GAT	GGC	GGT	2687
Arg	Pro	Glu	Asp	Leu	Gln	Leu	Val	Asp	His	Val	Asp	Gly	Gly	
			795					800					805	

GAT GGT ATT TTG CCC AGG CAA CAG TAC TTC AAA CAG AAC TGC	2729
Asp Gly Ile Leu Pro Arg Gln Gln Tyr Phe Lys Gln Asn Cys	
810 815	
AGT CAG CAT GAA TCC AGT CCA GAT ATT TCA CAT TTT GAA AGG	2771
Ser Gln His Glu Ser Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser His Phe Glu Arg	
820 825 830	
TCA AAG CAA GTT TCA TCA GTC AAT GAG GAA GAT TTT GTT AGA	2813
Ser Lys Gln Val Ser Ser Val Asn Glu Glu Asp Phe Val Arg	
835 840 845	
CTT AAA CAG CAG ATT TCA GAT CAT ATT TCA CAA TCC TGT GGA	2855
Leu Lys Gln Gln Ile Ser Asp His Ile Ser Gln Ser Cys Gly	
850 855 860	
TCT GGG CAA ATG AAA ATG TTT CAG GAA GTT TCT GCA GCA GAT	2897
Ser Gly Gln Met Lys Met Phe Gln Glu Val Ser Ala Ala Asp	
865 870 875	
GCT TTT GGT CCA GGT ACT GAG GGA CAA GTA GAA AGA TTT GAA	2939
Ala Phe Gly Pro Gly Thr Glu Gly Gln Val Glu Arg Phe Glu	
880 885	
ACA GTT GGC ATG GAG GCT GCG ACT GAT GAA GGC ATG CCT AAA	2981
Thr Val Gly Met Glu Ala Ala Thr Asp Glu Gly Met Pro Lys	
890 895 900	
AGT TAC TTA CCA CAG ACT GTA CGG CAA GGC GGC TAC ATG CCT	3023
Ser Tyr Leu Pro Gln Thr Val Arg Gln Gly Gly Tyr Met Pro	
905 910 915	
CAG TGAAGGACTA GTAGTTCCTG CTACAACCTC AGCAGTACCT	3066
Gln	
918	
ATAAAGTAAA GCTAAAATGA TTTTATCTGT GAATTC	3102

Fig. 1

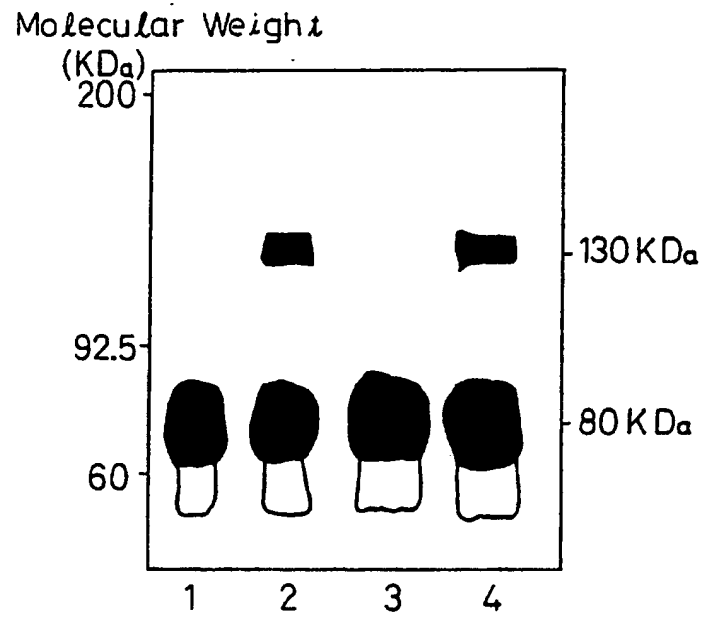


Fig. 2

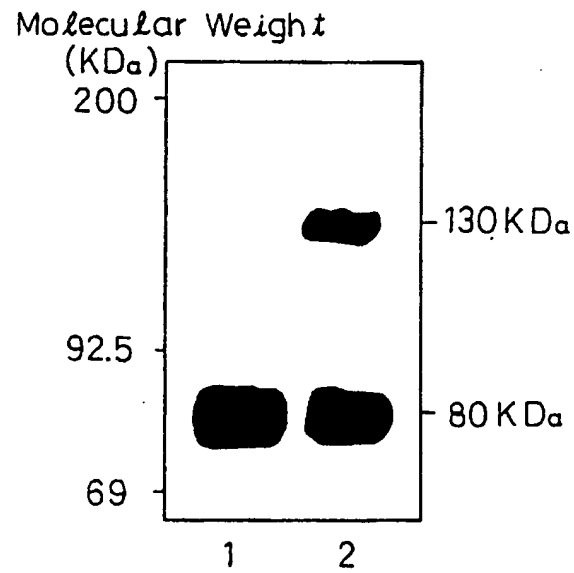


Fig. 3

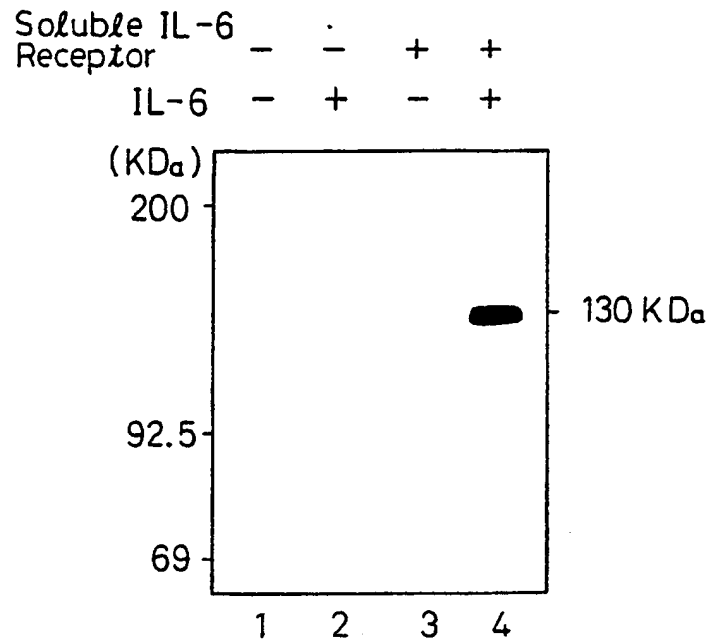


Fig. 4

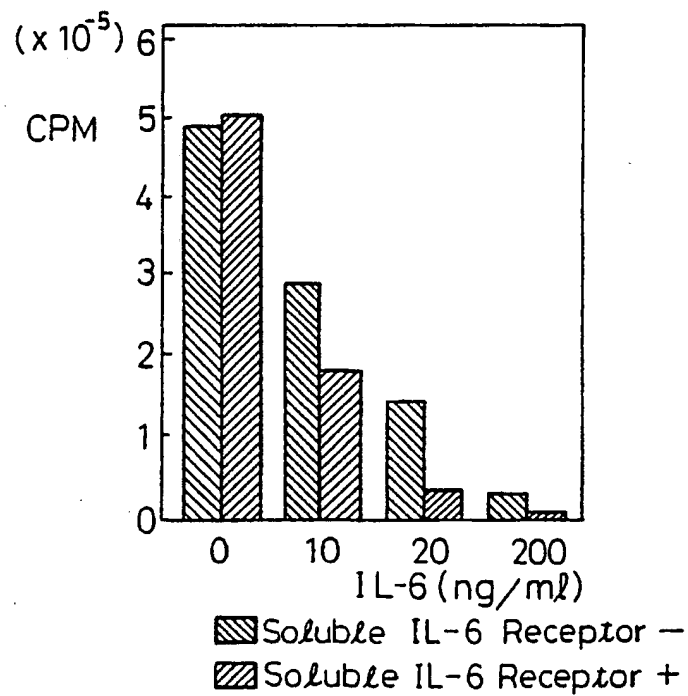


Fig. 5

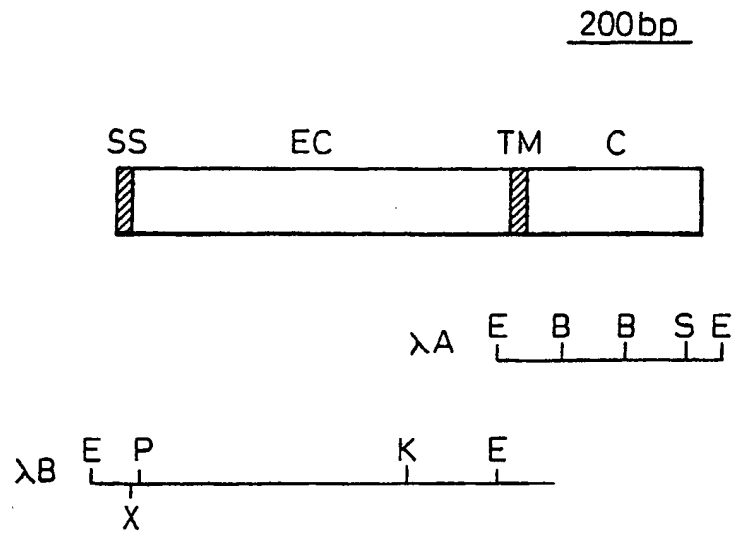


Fig. 6

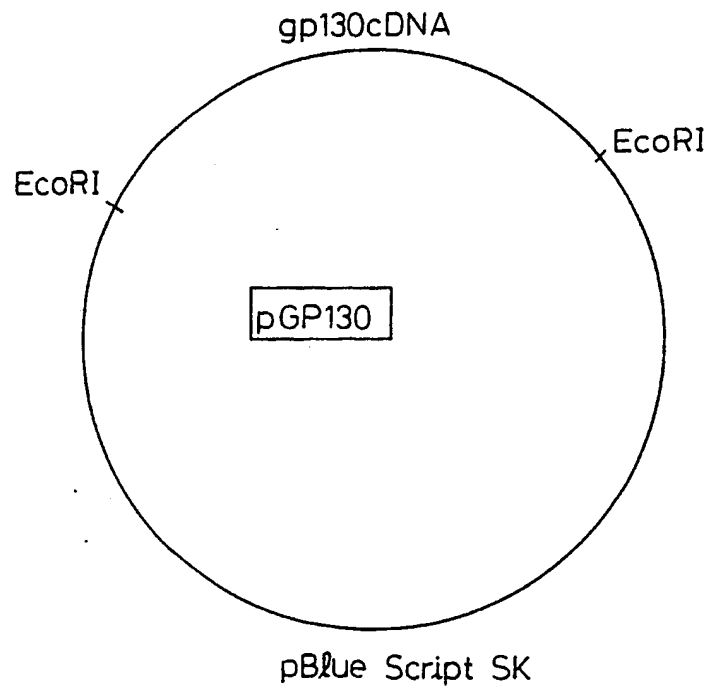


Fig. 7-1

SEQUENCE ID NO 1

GAATTCGGGG	CCGGGGCGAG	CAGCCAAAAG	GCCCGCGGAG	TCGCGCTGGG	50
CCGCCCCGGC	GCAGCTGAAC	CGGGGGCCGC	GCCTGCCAGG	CCGACGGGTC	100
TGGCCCAGCC	TGGCGCCAAG	GGGTTCGTGC	GCTGTGGAGA	CGCGGAGGGT	150
CGAGGCGGCG	CGGCCTGAGT	GAAACCCAAT	GGAAAAAGCA	TGACATTTAG	200
AAGTAGAAGA	CTTAGCTTCA	AATCCCTACT	CCTTCACTTA	CTAATTTTGT	250
5					
Met Leu Thr Leu Gln Thr Trp					
GATTTGAAA	TATCCGCGCA	AG	ATG TTG ACG TTG CAG ACT TGG		293
10 15 20					
Val Val Gln Ala Leu Phe Ile Phe Leu Thr Thr Glu Ser Thr					
GTA GTG CAA GCC TTG TTT ATT TTC CTC ACC ACT GAA TCT ACA					335
25 30 35					
Gly Glu Leu Leu Asp Pro Cys Gly Tyr Ile Ser Pro Glu Ser					
GGT GAA CTT CTA GAT CCA TGT GGT TAT ATC AGT CCT GAA TCT					377
40 45					
Pro Val Val Gln Leu His Ser Asn Phe Thr Ala Val Cys Val					
CCA GTT GTA CAA CTT CAT TCT AAT TTC ACT GCA GTT TGT GTG					419
50 55 60					
Leu Lys Glu Lys Cys Met Asp Tyr Phe His Val Asn Ala Asn					
CTA AAG GAA AAA TGT ATG GAT TAT TTT CAT GTA AAT GCT AAT					461
65 70 75					
Tyr Ile Val Trp Lys Thr Asn His Phe Thr Ile Pro Lys Glu					
TAC ATT GTC TGG AAA ACA AAC CAT TTT ACT ATT CCT AAG GAG					503
80 85 90					
Gln Tyr Thr Ile Ile Asn Arg Thr Ala Ser Ser Val Thr Phe					
CAA TAT ACT ATC ATA AAC AGA ACA GCA TCC AGT GTC ACC TTT					545
95 100 105					
Thr Asp Ile Ala Ser Leu Asn Ile Gln Leu Thr Cys Asn Ile					
ACA GAT ATA GCT TCA TTA AAT ATT CAG CTC ACT TGC AAC ATT					587
110 115					
Leu Thr Phe Gly Gln Leu Glu Gln Asn Val Tyr Gly Ile Thr					
CTT ACA TTC GGA CAG CTT GAA CAG AAT GTT TAT GGA ATC ACA					629
120 125 130					
Ile Ile Ser Gly Leu Pro Pro Glu Lys Pro Lys Asn Leu Ser					
ATA ATT TCA GGC TTG CCT CCA GAA AAA CCT AAA AAT TTG AGT					671

Fig. 7-2

135	Cys	Ile	Val	Asn	Glu	Gly	140	Lys	Lys	Met	Arg	Cys	145	Glu	Trp	Asp	
TGC	ATT	GTG	AAC	GAG	GGG	AAG	AAA	ATG	AGG	TGT	GAG	TGG	GAT				713
150	Gly	Gly	Arg	Glu	Thr	His	155	Leu	Glu	Thr	Asn	Phe	160	Thr	Leu	Lys	
GGT	GGA	AGG	GAA	ACA	CAC	TTG	GAG	ACA	AAC	TTC	ACT	TTA	AAA				755
165	Ser	Glu	Trp	Ala	Thr	His	170	Lys	Phe	Ala	Asp	Cys	175	Lys	Ala	Lys	
TCT	GAA	TGG	GCA	ACA	CAC	AAG	TTT	GCT	GAT	TGC	AAA	GCA	AAA				797
180	Arg	Asp	Thr	Pro	Thr	Ser	185	Cys	Thr	Val	Asp	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Val		
CGT	GAC	ACC	CCC	ACC	TCA	TGC	ACT	GTT	GAT	TAT	TCT	ACT	GTG				839
190	Tyr	Phe	Val	Asn	Ile	Glu	195	Val	Trp	Val	Glu	Ala	200	Glu	Asn	Ala	
TAT	TTT	GTC	AAC	ATT	GAA	GTC	TGG	GTA	GAA	GCA	GAG	AAT	GCC				881
205	Leu	Gly	Lys	Val	Thr	Ser	210	Asp	His	Ile	Asn	Phe	215	Asp	Pro	Val	
CTT	GGG	AAG	GTT	ACA	TCA	GAT	CAT	ATC	AAT	TTT	GAT	CCT	GTA				923
220	Tyr	Lys	Val	Lys	Pro	Asn	225	Pro	Pro	His	Asn	Leu	230	Ser	Val	Ile	
TAT	AAA	GTG	AAG	CCC	AAT	CCG	CCA	CAT	AAT	TTA	TCA	GTG	ATC				965
235	Asn	Ser	Glu	Glu	Leu	Ser	240	Ser	Ile	Leu	Lys	Leu	245	Thr	Trp	Thr	
AAC	TCA	GAG	GAA	CTG	TCT	AGT	ATC	TTA	AAA	TTG	ACA	TGG	ACC				1007
250	Asn	Pro	Ser	Ile	Lys	Ser	255	Val	Ile	Ile	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Asn	Ile		
AAC	CCA	AGT	ATT	AAG	AGT	GTT	ATA	ATA	CTA	AAA	TAT	AAC	ATT				1049
260	Gln	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Lys	Asp	265	Ala	Ser	Thr	Trp	Ser	270	Gln	Ile	Pro	
CAA	TAT	AGG	ACC	AAA	GAT	GCC	TCA	ACT	TGG	AGC	CAG	ATT	CCT				1091
275	Pro	Glu	Asp	Thr	Ala	Ser	280	Thr	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	285	Thr	Val	Gln	
CCT	GAA	GAC	ACA	GCA	TCC	ACC	CGA	TCT	TCA	TTC	ACT	GTC	CAA				1133
290	Asp	Leu	Lys	Pro	Phe	Thr	295	Glu	Tyr	Val	Phe	Arg	300	Ile	Arg	Cys	
GAC	CTT	AAA	CCT	TTT	ACA	GAA	TAT	GTG	TTT	AGG	ATT	CGC	TGT				1175

Fig.7-3

305														
Met	Lys	Glu	Asp	Gly	Lys	Gly	Tyr	Trp	Ser	Asp	Trp	Ser	Glu	
ATG	AAG	GAA	GAT	GGT	AAG	GGA	TAC	TGG	AGT	GAC	TGG	AGT	GAA	1217
320														
Glu	Ala	Ser	Gly	Ile	Thr	Tyr	Glu	Asp	Arg	Pro	Ser	Lys	Ala	
GAA	GCA	AGT	GGG	ATC	ACC	TAT	GAA	GAT	AGA	CCA	TCT	AAA	GCA	1259
330														
Pro	Ser	Phe	Trp	Tyr	Lys	Ile	Asp	Pro	Ser	His	Thr	Gln	Gly	
CCA	AGT	TTC	TGG	TAT	AAA	ATA	GAT	CCA	TCC	CAT	ACT	CAA	GGC	1301
345														
Tyr	Arg	Thr	Val	Gln	Leu	Val	Trp	Lys	Thr	Leu	Pro	Pro	Phe	
TAC	AGA	ACT	GTA	CAA	CTC	GTG	TGG	AAG	ACA	TTG	CCT	CCT	TTT	1343
360														
Glu	Ala	Asn	Gly	Lys	Ile	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Val	Thr	Leu	Thr	
GAA	GCC	AAT	GGA	AAA	ATC	TTG	GAT	TAT	GAA	GTG	ACT	CTC	ACA	1385
375														
Arg	Trp	Lys	Ser	His	Leu	Gln	Asn	Tyr	Thr	Val	Asn	Ala	Thr	
AGA	TGG	AAA	TCA	CAT	TTA	CAA	AAT	TAC	ACA	GTT	AAT	GCC	ACA	1427
390														
Lys	Leu	Thr	Val	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asn	Asp	Arg	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Thr	
AAA	CTG	ACA	GTA	AAT	CTC	ACA	AAT	GAT	CGC	TAT	CTA	GCA	ACC	1469
400														
Leu	Thr	Val	Arg	Asn	Leu	Val	Gly	Lys	Ser	Asp	Ala	Ala	Val	
CTA	ACA	GTA	AGA	AAT	CTT	GTT	GGC	AAA	TCA	GAT	GCA	GCT	GTT	1511
415														
Leu	Thr	Ile	Pro	Ala	Cys	Asp	Phe	Gln	Ala	Thr	His	Pro	Val	
TTA	ACT	ATC	CCT	GCC	TGT	GAC	TTT	CAA	GCT	ACT	CAC	CCT	GTA	1553
430														
Met	Asp	Leu	Lys	Ala	Phe	Pro	Lys	Asp	Asn	Met	Leu	Trp	Val	
ATG	GAT	CTT	AAA	GCA	TTC	CCC	AAA	GAT	AAC	ATG	CTT	TGG	GTG	1595
445														
Glu	Trp	Thr	Thr	Pro	Arg	Glu	Ser	Val	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Leu	
GAA	TGG	ACT	ACT	CCA	AGG	GAA	TCT	GTA	AAG	AAA	TAT	ATA	CTT	1637
460														
Glu	Trp	Cys	Val	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys	Ala	Pro	Cys	Ile	Thr	Asp	
GAG	TGG	TGT	GTG	TTA	TCA	GAT	AAA	GCA	CCC	TGT	ATC	ACA	GAC	1679

Fig. 7-4

470	Trp	Gln	Gln	Glu	Asp	Gly	Thr	Val	His	Arg	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Arg	
	TGG	CAA	CAA	GAA	GAT	GGT	ACC	GTG	CAT	CGC	ACC	TAT	TTA	AGA	1721
485							490					495			
	Gly	Asn	Leu	Ala	Glu	Ser	Lys	Cys	Tyr	Leu	Ile	Thr	Val	Thr	
	GGG	AAC	TTA	GCA	GAG	AGC	AAA	TGC	TAT	TTG	ATA	ACA	GTT	ACT	1763
500							505						510		
	Pro	Val	Tyr	Ala	Asp	Gly	Pro	Gly	Ser	Pro	Glu	Ser	Ile	Lys	
	CCA	GTA	TAT	GCT	GAT	GGA	CCA	GGA	AGC	CCT	GAA	TCC	ATA	AAG	1805
515							520						525		
	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Lys	Gln	Ala	Pro	Pro	Ser	Lys	Gly	Pro	Thr	Val	
	GCA	TAC	CTT	AAA	CAA	GCT	CCA	CCT	TCC	AAA	GGA	CCT	ACT	GTT	1847
530							535								
	Arg	Thr	Lys	Lys	Val	Gly	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val	Leu	Glu	Trp	
	CGG	ACA	AAA	AAA	GTA	GGG	AAA	AAC	GAA	GCT	GTC	TTA	GAG	TGG	1889
540							545					550			
	Asp	Gln	Leu	Pro	Val	Asp	Val	Gln	Asn	Gly	Phe	Ile	Arg	Asn	
	GAC	CAA	CTT	CCT	GTT	GAT	GTT	CAG	AAT	GGA	TTT	ATC	AGA	AAT	1931
555							560					565			
	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Phe	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Ile	Ile	Gly	Asn	Glu	Thr	Ala	
	TAT	ACT	ATA	TTT	TAT	AGA	ACC	ATC	ATT	GGA	AAT	GAA	ACT	GCT	1973
570							575					580			
	Val	Asn	Val	Asp	Ser	Ser	His	Thr	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Ser	Ser	
	GTG	AAT	GTG	GAT	TCT	TCC	CAC	ACA	GAA	TAT	ACA	TTG	TCC	TCT	2015
585							590						595		
	Leu	Thr	Ser	Asp	Thr	Leu	Tyr	Met	Val	Arg	Met	Ala	Ala	Tyr	
	TTG	ACT	AGT	GAC	ACA	TTG	TAC	ATG	GTA	CGA	ATG	GCA	GCA	TAC	2057
600							605								
	Thr	Asp	Glu	Gly	Gly	Lys	Asp	Gly	Pro	Glu	Phe	Thr	Phe	Thr	
	ACA	GAT	GAA	GGT	GGG	AAG	GAT	GGT	CCA	GAA	TTC	ACT	TTT	ACT	2099
610							615					620			
	Thr	Pro	Lys	Phe	Ala	Gln	Gly	Glu	Ile	Glu	<u>Ala</u>	<u>Ile</u>	<u>Val</u>	<u>Val</u>	
	ACC	CCA	AAG	TTT	GCT	CAA	GGA	GAA	ATT	GAA	<u>GCC</u>	<u>ATA</u>	<u>GTC</u>	<u>GTG</u>	2141
625							630					635			
	Pro	Val	Cys	Leu	Ala	Phe	Leu	Leu	Thr	Thr	Leu	Leu	Gly	Val	
	CCT	GTT	TGC	TTA	GCA	TTC	CTA	TTG	ACA	ACT	CTT	CTG	GGA	GTG	2183
640							645					650			
	Leu	Phe	Cys	Phe	Asn	Lys	Arg	Asp	Leu	Ile	Lys	Lys	His	Ile	
	CTG	TTC	TGC	TTT	AAT	AAG	CGA	GAC	CTA	ATT	AAA	AAA	CAC	ATC	2225

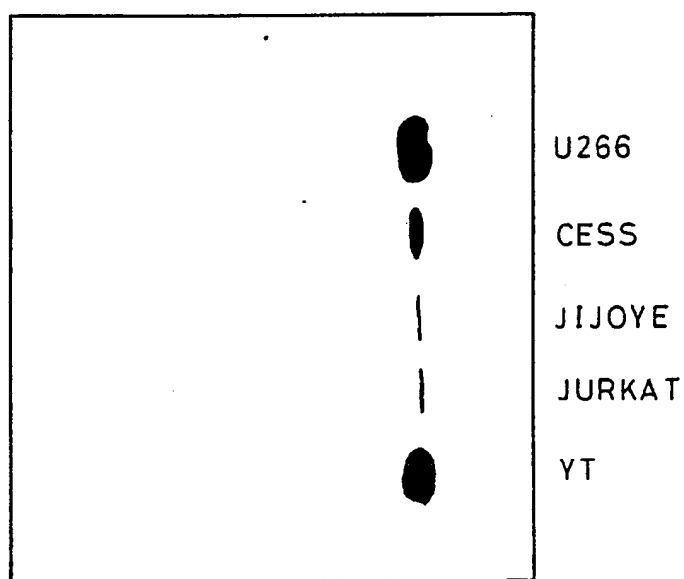
Fig. 7-5

<div>655</div> <div>Trp Pro Asn Val Pro Asp Pro Ser Lys Ser His Ile Ala Gln</div> <div>TGG CCT AAT GTT CCA GAT CCT TCA AAG AGT CAT ATT GCC CAG</div>														2267
<div>660</div> <div>Trp Ser Pro His Thr Pro Pro Arg His Asn Phe Asn Ser Lys</div> <div>TGG TCA CCT CAC ACT CCT CCA AGG CAC AAT TTT AAT TCA AAA</div>														2309
<div>670</div> <div>Asp Gln Met Tyr Ser Asp Gly Asn Phe Thr Asp Val Ser Val</div> <div>GAT CAA ATG TAT TCA GAT GGC AAT TTC ACT GAT GTA AGT GTT</div>														2351
<div>680</div> <div>Val Glu Ile Glu Ala Asn Asp Lys Lys Pro Phe Pro Glu Asp</div> <div>GTG GAA ATA GAA GCA AAT GAC AAA AAG CCT TTT CCA GAA GAT</div>														2393
<div>690</div> <div>Leu Lys Ser Leu Asp Leu Phe Lys Lys Glu Lys Ile Asn Thr</div> <div>CTG AAA TCA TTG GAC CTG TTC AAA AAG GAA AAA ATT AAT ACT</div>														2435
<div>700</div> <div>Glu Gly His Ser Ser Gly Ile Gly Gly Ser Ser Cys Met Ser</div> <div>GAA GGA CAC AGC AGT GGT ATT GGG GGG TCT TCA TGC ATG TCA</div>														2477
<div>705</div> <div>Ser Ser Arg Pro Ser Ile Ser Ser Ser Asp Glu Asn Glu Ser</div> <div>TCT TCT AGG CCA AGC ATT TCT AGC AGT GAT GAA AAT GAA TCT</div>														2519
<div>710</div> <div>Ser Gln Asn Thr Ser Ser Thr Val Gln Tyr Ser Thr Val Val</div> <div>TCA CAA AAC ACT TCG AGC ACT GTC CAG TAT TCT ACC GTG GTA</div>														2561
<div>715</div> <div>His Ser Gly Tyr Arg His Gln Val Pro Ser Val Gln Val Phe</div> <div>CAC AGT GGC TAC AGA CAC CAA GTT CCG TCA GTC CAA GTC TTC</div>														2603
<div>725</div> <div>Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Thr Gln Pro Leu Leu Asp Ser Glu Glu</div> <div>TCA AGA TCC GAG TCT ACC CAG CCC TTG TTA GAT TCA GAG GAG</div>														2645
<div>730</div> <div>Arg Pro Glu Asp Leu Gln Leu Val Asp His Val Asp Gly Gly</div> <div>CGG CCA GAA GAT CTA CAA TTA GTA GAT CAT GTA GAT GGC GGT</div>														2687

Fig. 7-6

Asp	Gly	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arg	Gln	Gln	Tyr	Phe	Lys	Gln	Asn	Cys	
GAT	GGT	ATT	TTG	CCC	AGG	CAA	CAG	TAC	TTC	AAA	CAG	AAC	TGC	2729
820					825				830					
Ser	Gln	His	Glu	Ser	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ile	Ser	His	Phe	Glu	Arg	
AGT	CAG	CAT	GAA	TCC	AGT	CCA	GAT	ATT	TCA	CAT	TTT	GAA	AGG	2771
835					840				845					
Ser	Lys	Gln	Val	Ser	Ser	Val	Asn	Glu	Glu	Asp	Phe	Val	Arg	
TCA	AAG	CAA	GTT	TCA	TCA	GTC	AAT	GAG	GAA	GAT	TTT	GTT	AGA	2813
850					855				860					
Leu	Lys	Gln	Gln	Ile	Ser	Asp	His	Ile	Ser	Gln	Ser	Cys	Gly	
CTT	AAA	CAG	CAG	ATT	TCA	GAT	CAT	ATT	TCA	CAA	TCC	TGT	GGA	2855
865					870				875					
Ser	Gly	Gln	Met	Lys	Met	Phe	Gln	Glu	Val	Ser	Ala	Ala	Asp	
TCT	GGG	CAA	ATG	AAA	ATG	TTT	CAG	GAA	GTT	TCT	GCA	GCA	GAT	2897
880					885									
Ala	Phe	Gly	Pro	Gly	Thr	Glu	Gly	Gln	Val	Glu	Arg	Phe	Glu	
GCT	TTT	GGT	CCA	GGT	ACT	GAG	GGA	CAA	GTA	GAA	AGA	TTT	GAA	2939
890					895				900					
Thr	Val	Gly	Met	Glu	Ala	Ala	Thr	Asp	Glu	Gly	Met	Pro	Lys	
ACA	GTT	GGC	ATG	GAG	GCT	GCG	ACT	GAT	GAA	GGC	ATG	CCT	AAA	2981
905					910				915					
Ser	Tyr	Leu	Pro	Gln	Thr	Val	Arg	Gln	Gly	Gly	Tyr	Met	Pro	
AGT	TAC	TTA	CCA	CAG	ACT	GTA	CGG	CAA	GGC	GGC	TAC	ATG	CCT	3023
918														
Gln														
CAG	TGAAGGACTA	GTAGTTCCTG	CTACAACCTC	AGCAGTACCT										3066
ATAAAGTAAA	GCTAAAATGA	TTTTATCTGT	GAATTC											3102

Fig. 8



(19)



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(54) **Human GP130 protein.**

(57) Human gp130 protein having at least the following properties: (1) the protein has an affinity with a complex of IL-6 (interleukin-6) and an IL-6 receptor (interleukin-6 receptor); (2) the protein shows an apparent molecular weight of 130 kDa in SDS-polyacrylamide electrophoresis; and (3) the protein participates in the transmission of IL-6 signal; DNA coding for the protein, an expression plasmid containing the DNA; and a process for production of the protein using the expression plasmid.

EP 0 411 946 A3



European
Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 8530

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
P,X	FASEB (FED. AM. SOC. EXP. BIOL.), vol. 4, no. 7, 26th April 1990, page A1918, abstract no. 1311, FASEB Journal, Bethesda, MD, US; M. HIBI et al.: "Characterization and molecular cloning of interleukin-6 receptor (IL-6R)-associated signal transducer, gp130" * The whole abstract *	1-8,10	C 12 N 15/12 C 12 P 21/02 C 07 K 13/00
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 19 November 91	Examiner HORNIG H.O.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			